

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

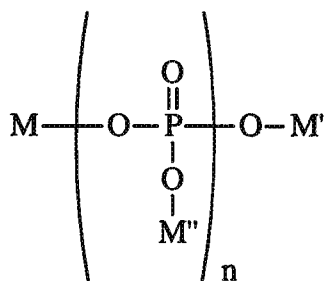
This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1-22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) A method of treating dental erosion comprising:

- (a) a physician or dental professional directing a human, in need thereof due to loss or softening of tooth enamel and its demineralization caused by direct action of acid on the tooth, to orally administer an effective amount of a beverage composition having a pH from about 2 to about 4.5 ~~less than 5~~ at least once daily for the purpose of treating dental erosion;
- (b) the human ingests the beverage composition based on such direction for the purpose of treating said dental erosion;

wherein the beverage composition comprises a compound having the structure:



wherein n is an integer averaging from about 7 to about 100 and M, M', and M'' are each, independently, selected from the group consisting of sodium and potassium, and wherein the beverage composition is substantially free of calcium and fluoride.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim ~~24~~ 23 wherein the beverage composition further comprises a sweetener.

26. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 25 wherein M, M', and M'' are each sodium.

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27. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 26 wherein n is an integer averaging from about 10 to about 30.
28. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim ~~27~~ 23 wherein the beverage composition has a pH from about 2.7 to about 3.5.
29. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 28 wherein n is an integer averaging from about 13 to about 25.
30. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim ~~29~~ 25 wherein the beverage composition comprises from about 0.1% to about 20% of the sweetener, by weight of the composition.
31. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 30 wherein n is an integer averaging from about 19 to about 25.